

As required in response to the Office Action, Applicant elects Group I (claims 1-26), with traverse.

Applicants request that the restriction requirement be reconsidered because the Office Action has not shown that a serious burden would be required to examine all the claims. M.P.E.P § 803 provides:

If the search and examination of an application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions. (Emphasis added)

Thus, for a restriction to be proper, the Office Action must satisfy the following two criteria: (1) the existence of independent and distinct inventions (35 U.S.C. § 121); and (2) that the search and examination of the entire application cannot be made without serious burden. See M.P.E.P § 803.

The Office Action has not shown that the second requirement has been met. Specifically, the Office Action has not shown that it would be a serious burden to search and examine all of the groups together. Indeed, the Office Action has not even alleged that it would be a serious burden to search and examine all of the groups together. Consequently, reconsideration and modification or withdrawal of the restriction is requested.

### **CONCLUSION**

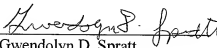
Applicant awaits an action on the merits. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number and address listed below.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 14028.0295U2  
VIA EFS-WEB  
PATENT

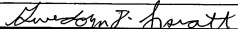
No fee is believed to be due in connection with this submission. However, if a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8			
I hereby certify that this correspondence, including any items indicated as attached or included, is being transmitted via electronic transmission via EFS-Web on the date indicated below.			
Name of Person Mailing (Print/Type)	Gwendolyn D. Spratt		
Signature		Date	February 11, 2008